



PATENT
Docket No.: 53375/1439

#10
B. Webb
5-1-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : Takayuki Suzuki et al.
SERIAL NO. : 09/909,980
FILED : July 23, 2001
FOR : ENDOSCOPE AND ENDOSCOPIC INSTRUMENT AND
METHOD USING THE SAME
ART UNIT : 3739 Conf. No. 2298
EXAMINER : JOHN M. MULCAHY

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The paragraphs marked below are applicable.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date or the date of filing a CPA, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

☐ c. Please debit Deposit Account No. 11-0600 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

☐ 4. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Please debit Deposit Account No. 11-0600 in the amount of \$130.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

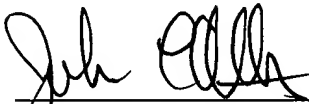
☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear in the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees relevant to this filing to
Deposit Acct. No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 11, 2003



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